

National action plan for rural education

*186. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have chalked out any new policy or the National Action Plan to promote rural education in the North-Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the necessary steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education 1986 had laid special emphasis on the provision of suitable incentives to all educationally backward sections of society, in the rural areas and that hill and desert districts, remote and inaccessible areas and islands would be provided adequate institutional infrastructure.

In keeping with the policy directive, educationally backward districts including those in the North Eastern Region have been taken up for pre-project activities under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In addition to the ongoing activities, the entire North Eastern Region is provided facilities for distance education through the eight regional centres and sixty nine study centres of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) as well as the regional centre of the National Open School (NOS).

Several initiatives have been made from time to time for the educational development of the North Eastern Region. In pursuance of the "New initiatives for the North Eastern Region" announced in October 1996 and consequent follow up on the recommendations of the High Level Shukla Commission, a non lapsable Central Pool of resources has been created so as to bridge the gaps in infrastructural development as identified by the Commission. This pool is being administered by an interministerial committee of Planning Commission headed by

Secretary, Planning Commission. In the education sector, proposals worth Rs. 347.44 cr. have been approved so far.

The Department of Secondary and Higher Education has ensured that 10% of the plan allocation is spent on the North Eastern Region. This target has been achieved in 1999-2000 as well as 2000-2001.

Winding up of M/s SSPL

*187. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BIFR has issued a show cause notice for winding up M/s Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.;
- (b) whether BIFR had earlier indicated that a wind-up order will not be issued unless a revival scheme is submitted by the promoter!/ company;
- (c) whether revival scheme has been made by the company and forwarded to Government;
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government to submit the revival scheme before BIFR; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (e) BIFR, on the 17th October 2000 had, *inter alia*, directed the Operating Agency to issue advertisement inviting offers for the takeover/leasing/amalgamation/merger for rehabilitation of the company giving three months time for submission of offers. The present promoters could also submit, if they so wished, a fully tied up comprehensive rehabilitation proposal in response to the advertisement, indicating clearly the means of finance with or without induction of a resourceful co-promoter. If no concrete rehabilitation proposal was received in response to the advertisement, the Bench might consider issuing a show cause notice for winding up without holding any further hearing. A revival plan was sent by the company to the Government. However, it was not